

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
A Perspective on Poverty

English translation:

Irena (I): People in America think that there are so many poor people here [Bangladesh] and that they have no money and that's the reason they are in this state. But it's not apparent that sometimes there is work available but people in the lower classes don't want to take up the offer. Suppose there is a job opening, but these people become so lazy that they don't want to pursue it. Then it becomes their fault, right? They don't take the jobs, although they can easily work. They'll look out for the money, but they don't want to work for it. You see all these children out in the streets, begging for money. There are lots of jobs that they can do, but they don't.

Gulshan (G): Yes. They don't want to understand why they should work.

I: Do you think there aren't enough employment opportunities for them, or, even if you have ample employment opportunities, the problem will persist?

Sarah (S): The problem will persist, regardless.

G: Yes. The problem will persist even if there are enough employment opportunities. They don't want to work. They are a bit lazy.

S: They think that it is easier to ask for money rather than work for it. That is the reason they don't want to work. They get easy money, so they don't bother to work. Even if you give them opportunities to work, they don't want to take them up.

G: They don't have the initiative to take up the opportunities.

I: You get job opportunities every day, right? Any one can do those jobs. And these days there are so many big companies coming here, which offer odd jobs to unskilled workers. But there aren't many people coming from the lower classes for these jobs. It's not that we don't have people to work. They just don't want to work, even though they have the option of working.

G: They just like getting easy money. They probably don't get the satisfaction of earning money like most people do. They feel more comfortable begging for money.

I: Okay.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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